VRE AT 25
A QUARTER CENTURY OF SERVICE

National Capital Region
Transportation Planning Board
July 19, 2017
WHAT WE ARE

- Virginia Railway Express is a “joint project” of the:
  - Northern Virginia Transportation Commission
  - Potomac & Rappahannock Transportation Commission
WHO WE ARE

A commuter rail system
*Running on existing railroad tracks*

Serving Washington DC and Northern Virginia
*Carrying long-distance commuters to DC, Arlington & Alexandria*

Two lines, 96 miles
*Adding peak capacity to I-95, I-395 & I-66 corridors*

19,500 daily trips
*Commuters that would otherwise drive alone in cars*

*Source: Texas Transportation Institute, Virginia Railway Express Congestion Relief Contribution; 2014*
REGIONAL COLLABORATION

WMATA Metrorail  
Expands the reach of VRE rail  
Used by 17% of VRE riders

Amtrak Virginia Trains  
Step-Up fares available  
Faster ride option for longer trips

MTA/MARC Train Service  
Fare Integration  
Exploring Opportunities for Through Running

Infrastructure improvements needed for further growth
WHAT WE ARE KNOWN FOR

Safe Operations
Quality Service
Reliable Service
High Customer Satisfaction
Strong Partnerships with Host Railroads

VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS
VRE MEASURES OF SUCCESS

VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS
OUR IMPORTANCE TO THE CAPITAL REGION

- Part of a balanced system
- Reduces peak congestion
- Cost-effective means of adding peak capacity
- Maximize economic competitiveness of the National Capital region
Peak Hour Trips from Virginia to DC across the 14th Street Bridges (6:30 to 7:30 AM)

- **VRE:** 13%
- **BUS:** 17%
- **METRORAIL:** 58%
- **AUTOMOBILE:** 11%
- **OTHER:** 1%

21,934 TOTAL TRIPS

*Source: MWCOG Transportation Planning Board 2013 Central Employment Core Cordon Count*
WHERE OUR RIDERS GO

- L’Enfant busiest station
  - Primary destination
  - Nearby offices
  - Metro connections

- Crystal City, Union Station & Alexandria
  - Next three busiest destinations

- Busiest origin stations are at the end of lines
  - Big park-ride lots
    - Most VRE passengers have a car available*

* Source: Texas Transportation Institute, Virginia Railway Express Congestion Relief Contribution; 2014
On a typical weekday
VRE draws ridership from 39 Virginia Jurisdictions

Jurisdiction of Residence for VRE Riders*
- VRE Member Jurisdictions (9)
- Other Top 20 Counties/Cities
- Other Counties/Cities

* Source: 2015 Master Agreement Survey
**VRE SYSTEM PLAN 2040**

*Provide capacity improvements for ridership growth*

**PHASE 1: Run Longer Trains**
- More railcars
- More station parking
- More train storage tracks
- Second & longer platforms

**PHASE 2 & 3: Run More Trains**
- Earn additional slots through capacity improvements
  - Additional CSXT tracks
  - Long Bridge (core) Expansion
  - More parking, railcars, yards
POTENTIAL FOR GROWTH

System Plan 2040 Goal: more than double VRE ridership

Weekday Trips vs. Year

“System plan” Growth

“Natural” Growth

VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS
Expand capacity from two to four tracks
- Between LE (L’Enfant) to RO (Rosslyn) Interlockings
- Six separate bridges spread over 1.4 miles
- Benefits passenger and freight rail
- Necessary for more commuter train service (VRE & MARC)

PE & NEPA funded through USDOT TIGER grant
Engineering funded through Atlantic Gateway
LONG BRIDGE CORRIDOR PROGRAM

L’ENFANT STATION IMPROVEMENTS
Lead Agency: VRE
Project Status: NEPA & PE
NEPA Status: Preparing CE
Funding Status: Funded through NEPA & PE

CRYSTAL CITY STATION IMPROVEMENTS
Lead Agency: VRE
Project Status: NEPA & PE
NEPA Status: Preparing CE
Funding Status: Funded through NEPA & PE

ALEXANDRIA STATION IMPROVEMENTS
Lead Agency: VRE
Project Status: Engineering (60% complete)
NEPA Status: CE Complete
Funding Status: FULLY FUNDED

VA to LE FOURTH TRACK
Lead Agency: VRE
Project Status: NEPA & PE
NEPA Status: Preparing CE
Funding Status: Funded through NEPA & PE

LONG BRIDGE (VA to LE FOURTH TRACK)
Lead Agency: DDOT
Project Status: NEPA & PE
NEPA Status: Preparing DEIS
Funding Status: Funded through Engineering

RO to AF FOURTH TRACK
Lead Agency: VaDRPT
Project Status: NEPA & PE
NEPA Status: DEIS Under Review
Funding Status: FULLY FUNDED

SLATERS LANE / ALX TRACK #1 ACCESS
Lead Agency: VRE
Project Status: Engineering
NEPA Status: Preparing Categorical Exclusion
Funding Status: FULLY FUNDED

The “Eight-Mile Bridge” Corridor
ACTIVE CORRIDOR PROJECTS

- **Stations & Parking**
  - 11 projects in NEPA/PE
  - 4 projects in Engineering
  - 1 project in Construction

- **Additional (3rd/4th) Tracks**
  - 26 miles in NEPA/PE
  - 9 miles in Engineering
  - 9 miles in Construction

- **Maintenance/Storage Facilities**
  - 2 projects in NEPA/PE
  - 3 projects in Construction

*Includes track projects led wholly or in part by the Virginia Department of Rail & Public Transportation*
VRE & TPB

- TPB advocacy and support for VRE projects is vital
- Priority to VRE projects of regional significance
  - Long Bridge Corridor
    *The “Eight-Mile Bridge”*
  - Regional rail service
    *Off-peak/reverse-peak*
  - Dedicated funding for capital & operating costs

*We look forward to 25 years of continued collaboration*